New York, New York Public Library, Manuscripts and Archives Division, NYPL MA 091

Description: Towneley Lectionary ff. 28 + xiii - Not bound. Towneley binding: red velvet with silver gilt furniture, and Towneley arms on enamel plaques; initials stamped on the clasps of Benjamin II and James Simth, with assay mark, London, 1809-10. - Executed for Cardinal Alexander Farnese who presented it to Pope Paul III (1534-49) for use in the Sistine Chapel; possibly looted in 1798; purchased ca. 1800 by Charles Towneley; Towneley sale (1883) to Quaritch; sold 1889 to Robert Lenox Kennedy. - De Ricci, 1329. Karlo Mirth, "Two Manuscripts of Giulio Clovio in America," Journal of Croatian Studies3-4 (1962-63), 102-13. The Towneley Lectionary introduction by J. J. G. Alexander, (London: Maggs Bros. Ltd., 1997). - Jonathan J. G. Alexander, James H. Marrow and Lucy Freeman Sandler, The Splendor of the Word: Medieval and Renaissance Manuscripts at the New York Public Library(London / Turnhout: The New York Public Library / Harvey Miller Publishers, 2005) n. 31.

Acknowledgments: - We thank Prof. Jonathan J. G. Alexander for his extensive work towards the present description of this manuscript.

Number of Parts: 1 - *Number of Images Available:* 14

Direct Link: http://ds.lib.berkeley.edu/NYPLMA091_41

Language: Latin *Country:* Italy *Century:* 16th

Part 1: ff. 1-28v

Description: - Parchment - 486 x 329 mm - 16 long lines. Ruled in extremely light pencil, often only visible at an angle. Occasional prickings visible.

Country: Italy

Cardinal point:

Region:

City:

Assigned Date: s. XVI$^{3/4}$

Searchable Date Range: 1550 - 1575

Dated by scribe: No

Inscribed Date:

Document: No

Number of Scribes: ;6

Script: Imitative of roman font

Artist(s): Giulio Clovio

Figurative Decoration: Six full-page images: ff. 5v, 6v, 11v, 16v, 20v, 23v . 6 smaller miniatures: ff. 2, 4, 7, 12, 17, 21. Elaborate borders.

Other Decoration: 1-line and 4-line gold, red and blue initials, some with decoration surrounding them (cf. ff. f. 14, 24_. Frame-like borders around images and text names, which contain human figures as well as elaborate designs. Full decoration never completed.

Notes: Six scribal hands have been distinguished but none identified by name. Full-page miniatures now misbound. Four miniatures attributed to Clovio: ff. 5v, 6v, 16v, 23v; 3 text pages decorated by him: ff. 2, 4, 17. Three anonymous artists. Latin

Number of Texts: 1

Text 1: ff. 2-27

Title: Initium sancti evangelii secundum Ioannem Lectionary for the Gospels

Language(s): Latin

Incipit: In principio erat verbum et verbum erat apud deum et deus erat verbum

Explicit: Dico enim vobis quia Angeli eorum semper vident faciem Patris mei, qui in caelis est.

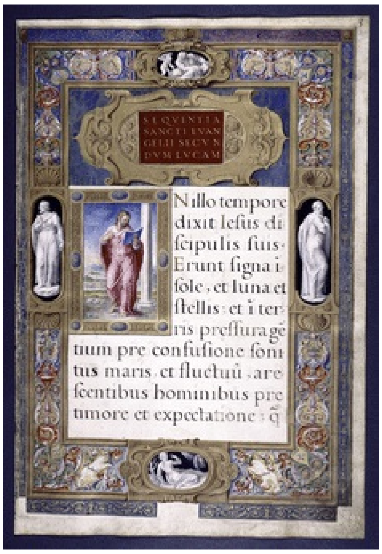
Notes: Contains the gospel readings at mass only for the more important feasts.



f. 2 Title and miniature of St. John the Evangelist and his symbol, the eagle, in a landscape; elaborate framing including human figures.

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f. 4 Small miniature of Luke, holding his book and reading, in a landscape. Very elaborate frame-like border, with statue figures and multi-colored designs.

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f. 5v Full-page miniature of the Adoration of shepherds and of angels. Elaborate full border with 3 scenes in lower margin in camaieu d'or: Circumcision, Adoration of the Magi, Presentation in the Temple.

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f. 6v Full-page miniature of the Sermon on the Mount, thought to contain portraits of specific individuals. Elaborate full border with human figures.

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f. 7 Title and opening of Gospel of Matthew, but with figure of St. Mark and his lion. Elaborate full border with human figures.

View image

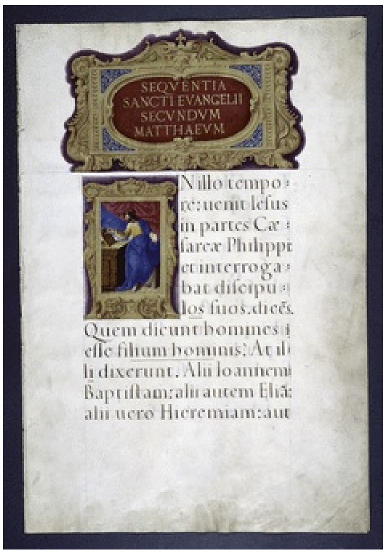
Download image



f. 11v Full-page miniature of Christ handing the keys to Peter; by an artist other than Giulio Clovio. Full border with human figures.

View image

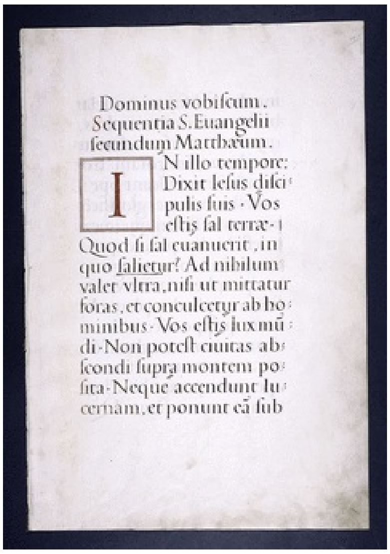
Download image



f. 12 Opening of gospel of Matthew, who stands at his desk, writing; elaborate borders.

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Dominus vobiſcum.
Sequentia S. Euangelii
ſecundum Matthæum.
IN illo tempore:
Dixit Ieſus diſci-
pulis ſuis. Vos
eſtis ſal terræ.
Quod ſi ſal euanuerit, in
quo ſalietur? Ad nihilum
valet vltra, niſi ut mittatur
foras, et conculcetur ab ho-
minibus. Vos eſtis lux mū-
di. Non poteſt ciuitas ab-
ſcondi ſupra montem po-
ſita. Neque accendunt lu-
cernam, et ponunt eā ſub

f. 14 Page of text with red 4-line initial.

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f. 16v Full-page miniature of the Resurrection, with elaborate full border.

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SEQVENTIA · S · AN-
CTI EVANGELII
SECVNDVM · MARCVM.
IN illo tempore
Maria Magda-
lene et Maria Ia-
cobi et Salome
emerunt aroma-
ta ut uenientes
ungerent Ieſum.
Et ualde mane una ſabbato-
rum ueniunt ad monumētū.
orto iam ſole. Et dicebant ad
inuicē. Quis reuoluet nobis
lapidem ab oſtio monumē-

f. 17 Opening of gospel of Mark, with title and miniature of Mark and his lion; elaborate borders, with human figures.

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f. 20v Full-page miniature of Pentecost, by a different artist; elaborate full border with a scene in camaieu d'or in the lower margin, possibly of Peter and John curing the lame at the gate of the Temple.

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f. 21 Opening of gospel of John, with title and miniature of John in elaborate borders.

View image

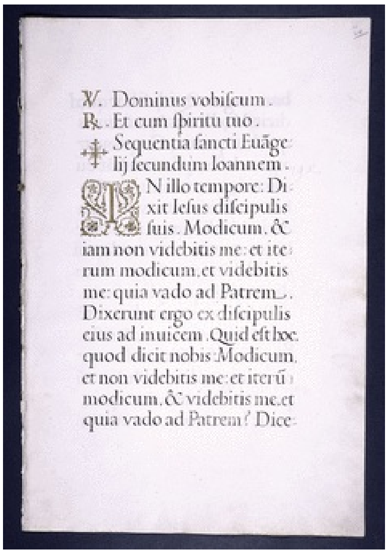
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f. 23v Full-page miniature of the Last Judgment, in elaborate full border including human figures.

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℣. Dominus vobiſcum.
℞. Et cum ſpiritu tuo.
✠ Sequentia ſancti Euãge
lij ſecundum Ioannem.
IN illo tempore: Di
xit Ieſus diſcipulis
ſuis. Modicum. &
iam non videbitis me: et ite
rum modicum, et videbitis
me: quia vado ad Patrem.
Dixerunt ergo ex diſcipulis
eius ad inuicem. Quid eſt hoc
quod dicit nobis: Modicum,
et non videbitis me: et iterũ
modicum, & videbitis me, et
quia vado ad Patrem? Dice

f. 24 Page of text with 1-line and 3-line gold initials.

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